

On another page we take pleasure in presenting to the readers of *THE JOURNAL* a very interesting letter from a member of the staff of the German Hospital, who resented some remarks which appeared in a recent issue. It will be seen from this letter that, while the general contention that the German Benevolent Society is an open contract practice institution is not disputed, it would appear that our previous informant had somewhat distorted the actual state of the domestic affairs of this institution. That the German General Benevolent Society has, in past years, done an enormous amount of most praiseworthy charitable work, cannot be gainsaid. That in more recent years many abuses have crept into that institution and that it has very justly been criticized for them, is, we think, equally patent. We are very glad to learn that "hospital patients" are now to be classed and treated as the private patients of the proper member of the attending staff, paying him for his professional services just as any other patient would; this is a long step in the right direction. There remains the reproach that any person, rich or poor, German or not, may become a "subscribing" member of the Society, and as such demand medical or surgical attention for the membership fee of \$1.00 per month. This is not right and cannot be defended in practice. It is therefore with much pleasure that we learn from the communication of our esteemed colleague of the German Hospital, that the energies of the staff are being devoted to an attempt to curb this abuse. Let members of the Society who are able to do so, pay their physician or surgeon just as would any one else. To contemplate the spectacle of a rich man receiving considerable professional attention for the grotesque sum of \$1.00 per month, is not elevating nor inspiring, and we wish the staff every success in their efforts to put a stop to it. Probably, as our correspondent suggests, there will always be contract practice in some form; but let us, at least, strive without end to keep it within reasonable bounds and let it be but one form of that charity which physicians are so lavish in giving.

San Francisco is liable to secure still more fame, or at least attention, through two of **THE VIABI** her "prominent citizens." The most **REMEDIES** excellent agitation of the nostrum mess, or "patent medicine" business—the "Great American Fraud"—by *Collier's Weekly* is enlightening the public in many ways, and more and more pronounced is the demand for truthful information about these nasty frauds. "Viavi" has come in for mention, and doubtless when the new pure food law goes into effect, it will receive still more interested attention from the administrators of that valuable measure. It may not be generally known to our readers that the "Viavi" business is owned by two "distinguished" citizens of San Francisco—Herbert Law and his brother, "Dr." Hartland Law. For those who are interested in the investi-

gation of frauds we would suggest a few lines of inquiry. Do any of the "viavi" remedies contain morphine? Is it true, as has been rumored, that a considerable portion of the "viavi" instruction deals with the science, art and practice of preventing conception—or eliminating the early product? Is it necessary that there shall be any metal connected with the brick in the transaction of selling a "gold brick"? It may also be interesting to our members, especially our San Francisco members, to know that the Fairmont Hotel has become the office of the "viavi" concern. We wonder will this convenient location be retained after the hotel is open for guests. Certainly, it would be a most excellent advertisement—of our "prominent citizens" and their honest business—and it would also be so convenient for the poor, suffering women who desire instruction in the science, art and practice, etc.

The *JOURNAL* is advised that a department has been opened at the City and County Hospital, San Francisco, for the care of hopeful cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and that it is ready to receive favorable male patients. The department of public health, we are informed, has for some time had in contemplation the creation of this tuberculosis section. The news that their plans have finally been perfected and that the work of rescue has actually been undertaken, is certainly encouraging, for it marks the first definite effort to fight tuberculosis which has ever been attempted in San Francisco. This is particularly significant when we realize that this city possesses the rather unenviable reputation of having probably the largest mortality from tuberculosis of any large city in the country. During 1905 the mortality reached 22.35 per 10,000 inhabitants, estimating the population to have been 450,000; this mortality resulted from pulmonary and laryngeal tuberculosis alone. We understand that the department of tuberculosis has been placed under the entire charge of the San Francisco member of the tuberculosis committee of the State Society, and that he will have absolute authority in the selection of suitable patients, and in the matter of personal supervision over them. The tuberculosis department is situated on the southern extremity of the City and County Hospital grounds and consists of a number of tent cottages with accommodations for twenty patients; a separate cottage is provided for administration purposes, also separate wooden buildings for kitchen, bathrooms, lavatories, etc. It is not the intention to make this department a place where helpless or very far advanced cases of tuberculosis shall be placed. It is indeed unfortunate that no suitable place exists for the accommodation of these patients, where they might at least be made comfortable and still not be a menace to others, but the importance of keeping this class of patients, afflicted with tuberculosis to a hopeless degree, from those who are still well, or but slightly infected, can not be overestimated. We therefore consider it very wise that